



Black History Month Virginia State Park Events 2020

More than 400 years ago the first documented captive Africans were brought to this continent to the shores of what is now Virginia. From that moment, American History was shaped by the cultures and experiences of people of African descent, and many Virginia State Parks reflect this in their landscapes, facilities, and stories. From the tragedy of slavery, the perils of immigration, and the long, slow fight for equal rights,

State Parks hold space to explore, discover, and understand our diverse shared heritage. We feel it's important to be inclusive in providing everyone these opportunities for discovery. In honor of Black History Month, the Department of Conservation and Recreation welcomes all guests to enjoy free parking during the month of February 2020, when they attend a ranger led program that offers a glimpse into the African American experience. This special programming is identified as Black History Month programming and will include in the description information stating that parking fees will be waived when attending.

Quarter Lane by Candlelight

Where: Chippokes Plantation State Park, 695 Chippokes Park Rd., Surry, VA 23883. Farm and Forestry Museum.

When: Feb, 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

In 1619, William Powell established a parcel of land south east of Jamestown creating Chippokes Plantation. Now after 400 years, the still active plantation serves as one of Virginia's 38 State Parks. Upon visiting the park you'll find historic buildings, vast agricultural fields, and a feeling of the historical weight that the plantation holds. Beyond these fields and buildings there are stories of the men, women, and children who worked and lived here over the plantations, also our country's, history. Hidden in the physical structures, and hidden in the ground, are pieces of these stories that give us the opportunity to discover more about the people and families that built this country. Join a ranger as we tour the 1830's River House, walk along the historic Quarter Lane,

and the Jones-Stewart Mansion grounds to try and uncover the lost and hidden stories of the enslaved people of Chippokes Plantation.

Other details:

- Extra fee: No. African American History Month programming; parking fees waived.
- Children welcome: Yes.
- Phone: 757-294-3728
Email Address: Chippokes@dcr.virginia.gov

The Underground Railroad

Where: [Leesylvania State Park](#), 2001 Daniel K. Ludwig Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22191. visitor center.

When: February 1, 2020. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (every Saturday in the month)

The Leesylvania property is associated with the escape of multiple enslaved women and men starting from 1784 through 1861. Within that time, three women and nine men escaped; Cate (22), Sinah (20), Andrew (21), James (19), Daniel (Approx. 45), Henry (27), Betsy (24), Moses (between 30-32), Abram (28), Littleton (unknown), Armstead (unknown) and Tom (unknown).

Celebrate Black History Month by learning about the park's rich history through its Underground Railroad display that is part of the National Park Service Network to Freedom program. Also, discover the hidden messages behind the beautiful, handmade quilt donated by Stone House Quilters.

For questions, please call the visitor center at 703-583-6904.

Other details:

- Extra fee: No. African American History Month programming; parking fees waived.
- Children welcome: Yes.
- Phone: 703-730-8205
Email Address: Leesylvania@dcr.virginia.gov

"USCTs at War" (African-Americans in the Union Army during the Civil War)

Where: [Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park](#), 6541 Saylers Creek Rd., Rice, VA 23966. Battlefield Visitor Center.

When: February 8, 2020. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

National Park Service Ranger Chris Bingham from Appomattox Court House National Historical Park will provide an enlightening presentation on African-Americans who served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. Known at the time as the "United States Colored Troops" by the Federal government who recruited them, the USCTs proved their bravery, mettle and gallantry time and again during the war, and most especially during the final days of the conflict participating in the Appomattox Campaign.

Other details:

- Fees: This family-friendly program is free to the public. African American History Month programming; parking fees waived
- For questions, please call the main office at (804) 561-7510.

Between the Lakes Trail Hike

Where: [Twin Lakes State Park](#), 788 Twin Lakes Rd., Green Bay, VA 23942. visitor center.

When: Feb. 1 and Feb. 22, 10 a.m.

The Between the Lakes Trail held special significance during segregation and the operation of Prince Edward and Goodwin Lake parks. During segregation, rangers were stationed on the trail to discourage individuals from crossing over to the park that was not meant for them (both ways). The history of the two parks and the significance of the trail will be discussed on the hike.

Other details:

- Extra fee: No. African American History Month programming; parking fees waived.
- Children welcome: Yes.

- Phone: 434-392-3435
Email Address: TwinLakes@dcr.virginia.gov

Cedar Crest Tours

Where: [Twin Lakes State Park](#), 788 Twin Lakes Rd., Green Bay, VA 23942. visitor center.

When: Feb. 1 and Feb. 22, 10 a.m.

Park staff will provide tours of Cedar Crest Conference Center and talk about the recreation offered when it was Prince Edward State Park for Negroes. The importance of the facility's layout and what it meant to those who enjoyed recreating there will also be discussed.

Other details:

- Extra fee: No. African American History Month programming; parking fees waived.
- Children welcome: Yes.
- Phone: 434-392-3435
Email Address: TwinLakes@dcr.virginia.gov

Camp Gallion History Hike

Where: [Twin Lakes State Park](#), 788 Twin Lakes Rd., Green Bay, VA 23942. visitor center.

When: Feb. 15 and Feb. 29, 10 a.m.

The hike will focus on Camp Gallion, the Civilian Conservation Corps troop that helped create what is now Twin Lakes State Park. One of the few African American troops, the CCC troop built the parks' dams, one of the pavilions and some of the fire pits and grills.

Other details:

- Extra fee: No. African American History Month programming; parking fees waived.
- Children welcome: Yes.
- Phone: 434-392-3435
Email Address: TwinLakes@dcr.virginia.gov

Hot off the Press

Where: [Twin Lakes State Park](#), 788 Twin Lakes Rd., Green Bay, VA 23942. The Spot (Concession Stand) .

When: Feb. 8, Feb. 15, Feb. 29. 1:30 p.m.

Travel through time on this scavenger hunt. In celebration of the park's history, we'll be digging through the Camp Gallion Dispatch--the newspaper written by the young African American men who created the lakes here--to find silly stories, funny drawings, and other interesting things. Then, we'll use these elements as inspiration as we make one-page newspapers about our own lives.

Other details:

- Extra fee: No. African American History Month programming; parking fees waived.
 - Children welcome: Yes.
 - Phone: 434-392-3435
- Email Address: TwinLakes@dcr.virginia.gov

Palmer Hayden Historical Marker Dedication

Where: Widewater State Park, 101 Widewater State Park Road, Stafford, VA 22554.

When: February 1, 2020. 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join us as we unveil and dedicate a historical marker for Widewater's famous painter, Palmer Hayden. In coordination with the start of Black History Month, enjoy an afternoon learning about his life and contributions to the fine arts.

Other details:

- Extra fee: No. African American History Month programming; parking fees waived.
- Children welcome: Yes.
- Phone: 540-288-1400
- Email Address: widewater@dcr.virginia.gov